

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

803

August 4, 2015

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to express our great concern regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) recent announcement of plans to close its Philadelphia field office. We believe this decision will undermine the FCC's ability to oversee the critical Northeast market and leave broadcasters more vulnerable to threats, while cutting important federal jobs in the Philadelphia area. We believe this decision warrants careful scrutiny and attention, and greater dialogue with our offices and other affected stakeholders.

At its core, the FCC is charged with the important responsibility of ensuring the smooth operation of interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The Philadelphia field office has a longstanding and proven track record of success in resolving disruptions within its jurisdiction – assisting organizations such as the Philadelphia Police Department, the United States Coast Guard, local fire departments, emergency response organizations, and countless small businesses and consumers. This office's accomplished history speaks volumes to the important, and often thankless, public service its employees perform. The termination of this field office will result in the immediate loss or relocation of these jobs, including constituents whom we proudly represent.

New and fast-changing threats like cyber-attacks, as well as longer-standing threats like piracy and radio interference, pose serious challenges to our region's media outlets. We believe one field office, located in New York City, cannot effectively protect all of Pennsylvania, New York, and parts of New England from these serious threats. The loss of the Philadelphia facility would no doubt greatly impact the FCC's ability to efficiently and effectively monitor and maintain the integrity of communications services in these critical markets.

With this in mind, we respectfully urge you to reevaluate the decision to close the Philadelphia office. We believe both the field office and its employees are critical to carrying out the FCC's core duties. Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle
U.S. House of Representatives
118 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boyle:

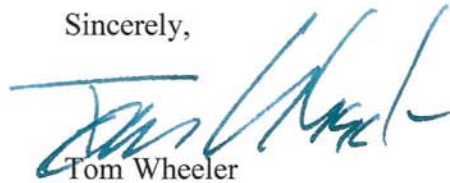
Thank you for your letter concerning the FCC's July 16th *Field Modernization Order* and its potential impact on radio spectrum interference issues in the Philadelphia area. I believe that the Commission's final decision in this matter represents a fact-based, balanced approach to modernizing a 20-year-old field office structure that was out of step with current technology and budgetary limitations. Although it is never easy to close underused federal facilities or improve management in ways that eliminate long-held positions, the Commission's goal was to maximize the effectiveness of its operations to meet 21st Century needs and realities. With that in mind, we studied a broad range of potential reorganization options, reviewed concerns with stakeholders and modified our contractor's initial recommendations to ensure nationwide enforcement coverage.

Although the final decision by the Commission was to close the Philadelphia office and eliminate the five positions there, we determined that the region was well covered by our primary Enforcement Bureau office in Columbia, Maryland and the nearby New York office. Also, all of our agents will now have electric engineering backgrounds, providing for better access to technical assistance on the ground, where and when needed. These agents will make effective use of our mobile vehicle operations and newly enhanced information technology. As far as an overall regional presence, it is important to note that the FCC maintains a facility in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania that provides consumer support, as well as redundant applications for some of our systems. We consider our work in this region to be very important and its close proximity to the Columbia and D.C. offices permits day trips and routine interaction between facilities.

At this stage, the Commission has consulted with OMB and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and is initiating the first phase of the reorganization. Please be assured that as part of this implementation, we are maintaining a commitment to respond in a timely manner to interference issues anywhere in the nation, including responding to all public safety spectrum complaints within one day. As a follow-up to our *Field Modernization Order*, the Enforcement Bureau released an August 27th *Public Notice* (PN) to enhance procedures for public safety and industry interference complaints. The PN outlined an escalation process for interference complaints that will also improve complainants' ability to stay informed of the status of their complaint. This process will streamline the interference complaint intake and response and result in more effective enforcement for our highest priority interference complaints.

Our Field Modernization Order and the August 27th PN are part of a comprehensive approach toward efficient enforcement. We see the future of enforcement as an efficient, holistic, and systematic process supported by better overall management and modern IT systems. I look forward to continuing our efforts to improve the Commission's enforcement practices and I am certain that they will yield successful, long-lasting results. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Michael G. Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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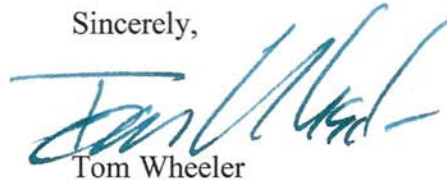
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Page 2—The Honorable Michael G. Fitzpatrick

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

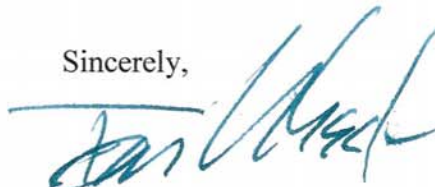
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Tom Wheeler